

this position is causing his trouble. He has too many good pitchers. Right now there are half a dozen athletes in the South Side gun division who can pitch winning ball against the class of batting displayed by the American League. They don't always win when they pitch winning ball, because their backing isn't stout.

Scott, Benz, Cicotte, Russell, Faber and Jasper are all excellent pitchers. They are the best sextet in either league, and have kept the Sox in the race to date.

But with six pitchers in action no one of them gets enough work to keep him in shape and at the top of his game. The rest between battles is too long, and the athletes grow stale. Jasper has not been counted a regular, but the other five have been worked in turn. Even one game in five is not enough for many pitchers, notably Reb Russell, who has a tendency to take on weight, and needs lots of exercise to keep in proper condition.

The Texas southpaw in his last few games has not much resembled the star of 1913. But consider the difference in the way he has worked. Last season Russell did more work than any other pitcher in the American League. Besides pitching when his own day came round he was used as a rescuer when one of the regulars faltered.

There was much comment at the time to the effect that the strain was too much for the Rebel and would play him out. But he is a big, strong fellow, and time has shown that the frequent performances were what he needed to keep his proper stuff.

This year Russell has been used when his proper turn came. The rescuing task has fallen on the other members of the staffs equally. Russell has done about half the work he did in 1913. And he has pitched about half as well.

The best solution, apparently, is to select four pitchers, use these four in rotation and keep them everlast-

ingly at it until one falters. Then Callahan could call on one of the bench warmers, substitute him for the tottering one and give that athlete a rest.

In this way there would always be four able boxmen doing active duty and two others ready to leap to the rescue at the first sign of failing.

Batting among the Sox is increasing, but the work of the pitchers has not been appreciably lightened. The batters are not hitting in sequence, but if they continue to connect the time is bound to come when they will gather the swats in concert and whale home the necessary runs.

If Connie Mack's team can go as it did yesterday, strong pitching is not needed. They gather their swats in bunches and keep whanging away until the opposing pitchers crumble before the persistent attack.

Twelve thousand fans saw yesterday's double-header between the Chifeds and Baltimore. It was a fine crowd and helped the bank account of the third league.

But this patronage will not continue if there are many more violent scenes such as characterized the first battle, when seven Baltimoreans were canned from the game for arguing and offering to fight the umpires or any member of the Chicago team. Several of them had an uncontrollable desire to take a punch at Rollie Zeider.

A good portion of the blame rests on the players. But some of it should be charged to the indicator handlers. The brand of umpiring in the Federal League is not good. There are three or four arbiters who know their business, but the others do not seem very accurate in guessing decisions, allow the athletes too much freedom and do not keep the pastime moving.

In the last respect there was some improvement yesterday, one game taking 1:47 and the other 1:50, against 2:15 for the Sox-Athletic combat.

President Gilmore was at the park